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NEKOTA NO KOTO GA KI NI NATTE SHIKATANAI ch20

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猫田のこと
気になって仕方ない。
NEKOTA
CHAPTER
20

OH, I GET IT!
SO THAT'S HOW YOU DO IT. AS EXPECTED OF NEKOTA〜♪
You know,
you should learn how to do your homework on your own...
ALL RIGHT!
NOW I JUST NEED TO WRITE OUT MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION.
Aren't I amazing?
Yeah yeah
I WISH SCHOOL WOULD START SOON.
I'M TIRED OF NOT BEING ABLE TO SEE EVERYONE.

Huh?
Aren't you going to see everyone tomorrow?
Huh?
Every-one around here pays a visit to the Outo Shrine every New Year's Eve because it's a custom
Aren't you going?
I won't be going, though.
The heck is that?
December 31st.
New Year's Eve.
chatter
chatter
AMANE-SAAAAAN.
OVER HERE!
Ohhh!
YOOHOO! LONG TIME NO SEE!
I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS A SHRINE LIKE THIS BEHIND THE SCHOOL.
tap tap

We're still kids, after all.
BUT I DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH MONEY!
I WANT TO EAT THIS!
I WANT TO DO THAT!
IT'S LIKE A FESTIVAL!
OH! THERE ARE STALLS HERE!
BUT ONLY ON NEW YEAR'S EVE.
IT'S FINE SINCE IT'S IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.
It's already 11 o' clock-
IS IT OKAY FOR CHILDREN TO COME HERE BY THEMSELVES?
WELL, YOU WERE THE ONE WHO KEPT TELLING ME TO COME.
HAHA, YOU CAME IN THE END, NEKOTA!
Geez
I HAD A HARD TIME PUTTING MEGU TO SLEEP, YOU KNOW.

Thanks for all your hard work, Onii-chan ☆
Stop it.
And then
Hey there!
So you guys came as well!
Oh!
IRIE!
Long time no see~
ARE YOU ALONE?
How unusual
Nope
ACTUALLY, I WAS WITH MY (GIRL) CLASSMATES EARLIER.
But then I saw you and without thinking, I left them behind to come here ♡
Is that okay?
Embarrassed

BEING TOGETHER WITH AMANE-SAN (AND THE REST) ON NEW YEAR'S EVE...I FEEL LIKE IT WILL BECOME A MEMORY I WON'T EVER FORGET.

Anyway

SINCE YOU'RE HERE, LET ME WALK AROUND WITH YOU GUYS!

THE MORE THE MERRIER!

I won't be alone!

Ah

SURE, OKAY.

WE'RE GOING AROUND WITH EVERY-ONE.

Alrighty then

I'LL GUIDE YOU AROUND ♡

IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME CELEBRATING NEW YEAR'S EVE HERE?

Thanks!

I MEAN, DOESN'T HARUNA FEEL THAT WAY ABOUT NEKOTA...
I SEE.
well, it's because Yukke worked hard.
Machako is proud for some reason
THEY'RE A COUPLE NOW.
Since when?!
WHAT?!
WAIT...
THOSE TWO...
EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS OBSESSED WITH NEKOTA BEFORE...
FEELINGS
CAN CHANGE, CAN'T THEY...

Hey, Mikki.
Did something happen with Nekota on Christmas?!
LATELY, THOSE TWO...
NO, I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT...
I STILL HAVE A CHANCE WITH AMANE-SAN!
WHICH MEANS
SOME-THING?
YOU WENT TO HIS HOUSE ON CHRISTMAS, DIDN'T YOU?!
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN THERE?!
WELL, I GOT TO SEE HIS PHOTO ALBUMS,
WE ALSO PLAYED TWISTER AND ATE SOME FRIED RICE...
AH
I also got a Christmas present from him.
Bu
hair tie ♪
AH
THAT'S RIGHT! YOU DID! SORRY!
I told you! You! keep it a secret!
Cut that part out!
As if we can
Snip, snip

NEKOTA, YOU... YOU'RE ALWAYS PUTTING ON AIRS.
staaare
BUT TO THINK THAT YOU'RE ACTUALLY HOLDING YOURSELF BACK FROM CHASING AFTER GIRLS LIKE THAT...!
What a formidable guy!
NO!
THERE WASN'T ANY MEANING BEHIND IT!
Yup yup.
THAT'S RIGHT!
DON'T "THAT'S RIGHT!" ME
GEEZ, YOU AND YOUR BIG MOUTH.
OW!
I SAID I'M SORRY!
I was careless.
IT WAS JUST SOMETHING TO THANK HER FOR PLAYING WITH MY SISTER.
THAT'S ALL.
YOU DON'T NEED TO MAKE SUCH A FUSS ABOUT IT.

You're always careless.
...HEY, THOSE TWO...
AREN'T THEY A LITTLE CLOSER THAN BEFORE?
YEAH...
I DON'T KNOW WHEN BUT SHE'S GOTTEN CLOSE TO HIS FAMILY.
AND I THINK SHE AND HIS SISTER GET ALONG WELL...
I SEE...
!
chatter
chatter

NEKOTA!
I CHALLENGE YOU!
SURE.
YES!
I GOT A HIT!
You're pretty good, little girl!
BANG x6
tsk
ONLY THREE HITS, HUH?
Getting 3 hits out of 6 is still impressive, missy!
You got me good!
The fizzy candy
WHOEVER'S NEXT, STEP RIGHT UP!
Nekota!
It was harder than I expected.
I was aiming for the fizzy candy, though.

BANG x6
Please enjoy these different angles.
YOU HIT THEM ALL!
Wow
Incredible
Ehhhh
THAT WAS AMAZING, NEKOTA!!
I JUST HAPPENED TO BE ON FIRE.
HEAPS
HM?
IT'S THE THING YOU WERE AIMING FOR.
HERE, FOR YOU.

AH, FIZZY CANDY!
DRIDN'S
ラムネ
YOU WERE AIMING FOR THAT THE WHOLE TIME, RIGHT?
It was obvious
How did you know?!
yaaay!
Thank you!
DRIDN'S
ラムネ

MAAAN, YOU CAN NEVER BEAT NEKOTA...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO, DAMN IT!

IF YOU GUYS WANT, I CAN ALSO HELP YOU GET WHAT YOU LIKE...

Ah

2 hits

0 hits

?

...YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.

THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I EVER SAW AMANE-SAN

WITH SUCH A CUTE SMILE ON HER FACE.

HUH?

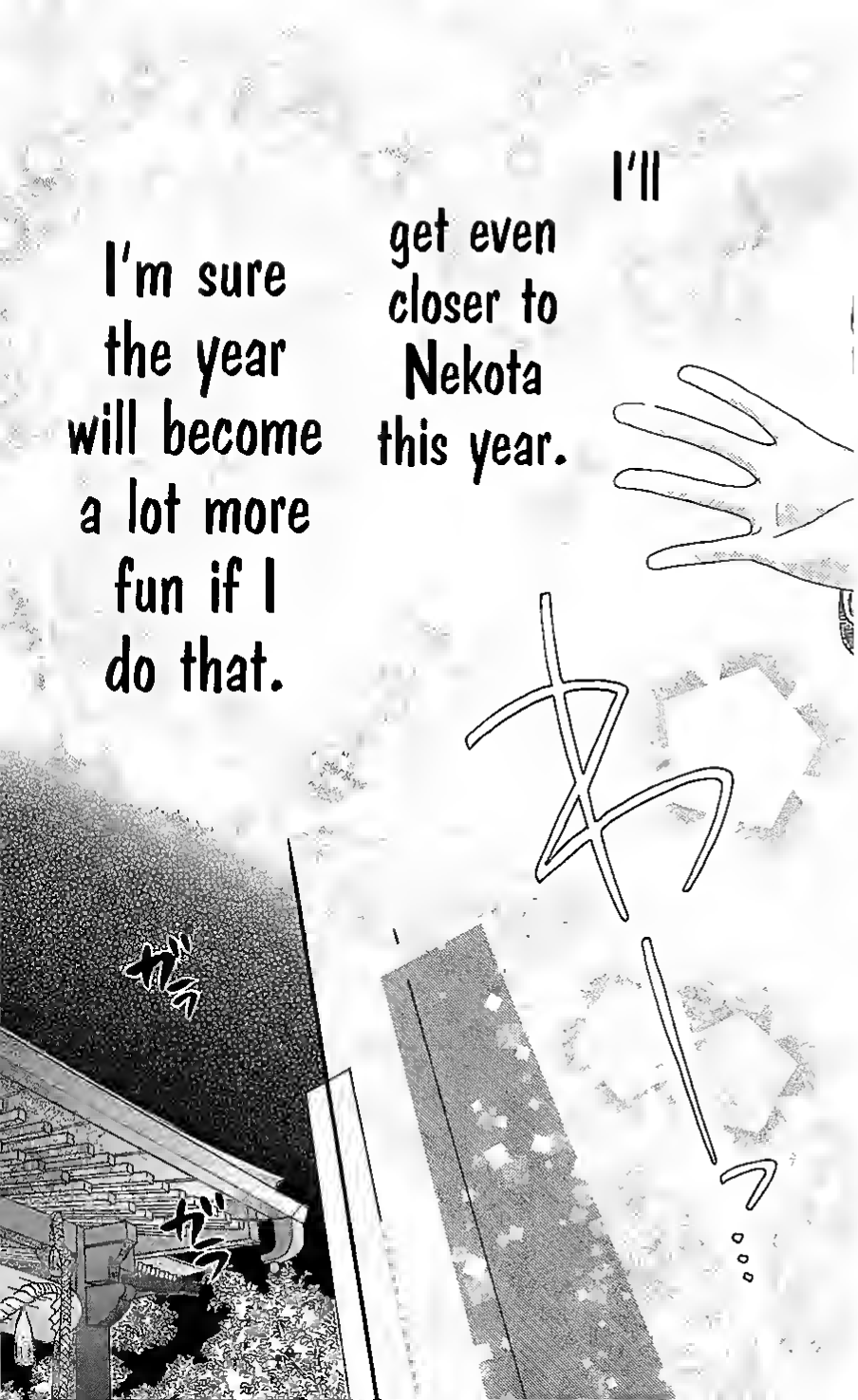
I THINK I'VE BEEN TOO LAXED.

IF I DON'T MAKE A MOVE NOW,
IT'S GOING TO BE TOO LATE.
...IRIE...?
YOU... WHAT DO YOU...
Heeee eeey!
THUMP

ba-chump
ちゅん
Here I come, Amane-san ♡
LET'S HEAD TO THE BACK!
THEY SAID THE COUNTDOWN IS GONNA START SOON!
Irie...
Are you...
"it's going to be too late."
was what he said...
The countdown will begin soon
Let's happily bid this year a farewell and welcome a wonderful new year!

So!
what are we supposed to do during the countdown?
WHAT KIND OF QUESTION IS THAT?
WE'RE JUST GONNA COUNT DOWN.
Are you dumb?
Really?
A LOT OF THINGS HAPPENED THIS YEAR.
That's right.
I changed schools.
Here we go!
10
9
IT STARTED!
That happened this year!
OH YEAH!
BUT THE BEST OF THEM ALL IS AMANE-SAN TRANSFERRING TO OUR SCHOOL!

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
I changed schools,
met everyone,
met Nekota,
and we all became friends!


I'll get even closer to Nekota this year.
I'm sure the year will become a lot more fun if I do that.
ガラ
ガラ

Happy New Year!!

CLAP
ぱん
CLAP
ぱん
NNGA AAH,
NNG GAAH!!
YOU'RE BEING NOISY.
I wished for Neko-taks...
chop
DID YOU FORGET WHAT YOU JUST SAID?
And it's about me?
Well, if people found out what I wished for, it won't come true, will it?!
THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY.
What did you wish for, Mikki?
RIGHT THEN, WE'LL PART WAYS HERE.
WHAT? YOU'RE GOING HOME ALREADY?
NO WE'RE GOING TO WALK AROUND WITH JUST THE TWO OF US ♡
SEE YOU GUYS IN THE NEW SCHOOL TERM

WHAT SHOULD WE DO NEXT?
I WANT TO DRINK SOMETHING WARM.
Ah, they have Amazake here
T/N: AMAZAKE IS A SWEET, LOW-ALCOHOLIC DRINK. THEY CAN BE SERVED TO MINORS.
IRIE?
WHAT'S WRONG? LET'S GO.
...
HUH?
AMANE-SAN, DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?

Ah
DO YOU GUYS HAVE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO BRI...
Huh?
AMANE-SAN IS GONE!
IRIE TOO!
DID WE LOSE THEM?
LOOKS THAT WAY...
...
Gasp
"If I don't make a move now"
...NO...
MAYBE THAT GUY...
SEPARATED FROM US ON PURPOSE.

AH, YOU KNOW...
AMANE-SAN...
WHAT...
DO YOU THINK OF ME?
Calm down! Calm yourself down!!
IRIE? HOW FAR DO WE HAVE TO GO?
YEAH.
THAT'S RIGHT...
BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
well, I think you're IRIE!
what do I think of you?
I WONDER IF THEY'LL BE OKAY.
WE SHOULD HEAD BACK SOON.
HEY, WE CAME HERE WITHOUT TELLING NEKOTA AND MACHAKO.
Pull yourself together!

HUH?
HAHA.
AGAIN WITH NEKOTA.
AND NEKOTA IS HERE, TOO!
GOOD POINT.
THEY WON'T GET LOST IF THEY'RE TOGETHER!
THEY'LL BE FINE!
...WHEN I ASKED YOU THAT QUESTION EARLIER,
I WANTED TO KNOW IF YOU LOOKED AT ME ROMANTICALLY.
...THAT'S WHAT I MEANT.

T/N: IRUE SAYS REN'AI TAISHO (ROMANTICALLY). MIKKI DOESN'T UNDERSTAND HIM AND THINKS "REN'AI" IS A SQUAD NAME AND "TAISHO" IS COMMANDER.
woo
Commander,
Ren'ai
we're off to battle!
I knew it. This won't work.
...Ro
man
ti
cally ...?
AMANE-SAN, YOU'RE DENSE AND IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE YOU'RE INTERESTED IN THAT SORT OF THING
SO I THOUGHT I COULD TAKE MY TIME AND NOT HURRY.
?
WHAT IS IT?
Haruna told me the same thing before, too.
BECAUSE IF I DON'T TELL YOU DIRECTLY, YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.
BUT IT SEEMS THAT I CAN'T KEEP ON DOING THAT...

Amane-
san
I like
you
as a
girl.

...I
...YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING, RIGHT?
PLAN ON GOING TO A PRIVATE MIDDLE SCHOOL
SO WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE EACH OTHER VERY SOON.

...HUH?
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO THE SAME ONE AS EVERYONE ELSE?
YEAH.
AND I HAVE A GOOD CHANCE OF PASSING, TOO.
IT'S ALMOST CERTAIN THAT I'LL BE SEPARATED FROM EVERYONE.
THAT'S WHY
I FELT LIKE I COULDN'T JUST STAND AROUND AND DO NOTHING.
ALTHOUGH,
YOU MUST BE AT A LOSS FOR WORDS AFTER SUDDENLY BEING TOLD ALL THIS!
I WANT YOU TO THINK ABOUT IT THOROUGHLY
SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO GIVE ME AN ANSWER RIGHT NOW.

FEBRUARY 14TH.
I WANT YOU TO GIVE ME YOUR ANSWER ON VALENTINE'S DAY.
IF THERE'S EVEN A SMALL CHANCE FOR ME,
THEN MAYBE YOU COULD GIVE ME SOME CHOCOLATES.
AND...
IF I DON'T RECEIVE ANY
...THEN

I WILL FACE IT LIKE A MAN
Wait. What?
Hold on.
AND GIVE UP.

I just confessed to?
Was